

MINUTES
Judicial Education Committee
January 12, 2007

Members present: Barbara Harcourt, Chair; Ted Boehm, Mark Bailey, Barbara Collins, Darrin Dolehanty, Bob Freese, Sherry Biddinger Gregg, John Rader, Loretta Rush, Jane Magnus-Stinson, Jack Tandy. **Staff:** Cathy Springer, Anne Jordan, and Jane Seigel.

- 1. Welcome new committee members and approval of minutes from October.** Chair Barbara Harcourt welcomed the new members to the committee: Sherry Biddinger Gregg, Jack Tandy and Diane Boswell. The October minutes were approved.
- 2. Review of Winter Conference.** Staff reported that 201 conferees attended the Winter Conference on Domestic Abuse. The evaluations were handed out. The general consensus was that the use of scenarios in the afternoon was confusing, and may have worked better in small groups.
- 3. Discussion regarding New Judicial Officer Orientation Programs.**
 - a. Pre-Bench orientation, December 6-7.** Committee members like having this orientation program precede the Winter Conference. It gives new judges the opportunity to meet their colleagues. Staff reported that requests have been made to have the pre-bench in November as opposed to December. There are specific topics that newly-elected judges want to hear about as soon as possible following an election, such as employment, administration, benefits, and PERF. A suggestion was made to make these topics available electronically in a web-based training, such as creating a video for new judges to watch on their own time. Barbara Harcourt suggested a WebX format. Another idea was to hold a one-day orientation immediately following the election with pertinent information regarding benefits, etc., and then hold another one-day orientation prior to the Winter Conference. It was suggested that the committee try to hold an Education meeting using WebX to better understand how it works. A copy of Obiter Dicta was handed out and thanks given to John Rader for compiling the “words of wisdom” from experienced judges that was distributed at the orientation.
 - b. General Jurisdiction Orientation, January 23-26.** There are 32 new judicial officers attending the General Jurisdiction Orientation Jan. 23-26 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Four experienced judges will serve as observers.
 - c. Juvenile Court Judicial Officer Orientation, February 7.** This one-day training will cover basic tenants of CHINS, TPR, and delinquency. We anticipate 15-20 new judicial officers.
- 4. 2007 Conferences**
 - a. Spring Judicial College.** A grid of tentative courses was handed out for review. Additional topics were suggested, including problem solving courts, Community Transition programs, Sex Offenders, mental health, substance abuse and treatment ideas,

and grant funding. Judge Rush mentioned that Indiana University has a philanthropic school, and that perhaps someone from there could serve as faculty on the grant-funding program.

b. Graduate Program, June 3-8, Brown County. Second year of 2-year program.

c. Annual Meeting of Juvenile Court Judicial Officers, June 21-22.

d. Annual Meeting of Judicial Conference, September 19-21, Fort Wayne.

Discussion was held on having a Health Fair at the annual meeting. Is there an ethical component—how wellness impacts your ability to do your job? Other topics mentioned: sentencing issues, grant writing Judge Bailey suggested a session with a historical component, such as the history of the judiciary, the Indiana Constitution. Judge Collins suggested a book discussion around the book “Blink” by Malcolm Gladwell. Also needed is a programming on cultural diversity issues.

e. Domestic Relations Workshop, November 15-16, Indianapolis Marriott.

f. Winter Conference, December 7.

5. Committee Project Wish list for 2007-2008 – What would committee members like to see the committee work on this year?

a. Distance Learning projects. Judge Harcourt has been very involved with the National Judicial College in developing distance-learning education. She explained that it definitely involves more than just sitting in front of a computer. Among the benefits, it can take the burden off of IJC staff and can offer opportunities to judges to train themselves and their staff. Both she and Judge Tandy have done teaching over the internet. It was agreed that distance learning should not replace traditional face-to-face training.

b. Training for Court Staff. The committee discussed the possibility of developing a distance-learning module for court staff. Topics discussed for court staff training: team building; training on the statewide case management system; best practices and standardization of procedures; regional training.

c. Judicial Wellness/Judicial Families/Health Fair

d. Other: Faculty development; foreign language programs; how to immunize your sentencing decision; and observation of other court practices.

6. Additional items for discussion. This being Jane Magnus-Stinson’s last meeting before beginning her position as a Federal Magistrate, the committee members and staff wished her well and thanked her for all of her efforts on behalf on judicial education in Indiana.

7. *The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 16, 2007, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

8. Additional 2007 Committee Dates - May 18, July 20, October 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Jordan, Program Attorney